

# PLAIN TALKS

December  
1984

Celebrating Christmas

River Bend start-up

Huntsville's Santa





# MAIL BOX

## THE COVER

It just wouldn't be Christmas without turkey, even though it is not a favorite food for the John and Michelle Pinkney family.

Michelle, a Beaumont graphic technician and mother of the four youngsters shown on the cover, grew up as an only child. She recalls wistfully dreaming of the day when she could share the holidays with her own children.

Read how this Texas family and the Duhons of Louisiana make the holidays special in the feature that begins on page 9.

The cover photograph is by Susan Gilley.

### Museum praised

Joe E. DeJean  
Curator, Edison Plaza Museum  
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Joe:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to visit your museum last week. I was impressed with the work you have done and with the response you have received from the community. The Edison Plaza Museum is an important addition to Beaumont's list of historic sites.

The marker dedication ceremony was the best I have seen. It was just the right length and it involved representatives of the county, the city, GSU and the Jefferson County Historical Commission. Please convey my thanks to the officials of GSU who contributed their time and effort to the preservation of the old substation building and to the marker ceremony.

Sincerely,

Dan K. Utley  
Texas Historical Commission

**Thanks, Dianne!**

Marketing & Consumer Services  
Baton Rouge, La.

Dear Friends:

The St. Vincent DePaul Society

Council of Baton Rouge wishes to express our thanks to GSU for their concern for the problems of the low income and elderly of Baton Rouge.

We were privileged to have Ms. Dianne Brandon, your consumer affairs coordinator, speak to us Oct. 1 at our council meeting.

Her knowledge and expertise on the problems we face in helping those in need, and her genuine concern for the people involved, not only make it a pleasure to work with her but give us confidence that with all of us working together through Christ there will be help for these people.

Sincerely,

Fred Griggs President-SVDP  
Society Council of Baton Rouge

### Help given

Billie Schaefer  
Gulf States Utilities  
Conroe, Texas

Dear Ms. Schaeffer:

This letter is to commend one of your employees and to express my appreciation for his assistance.

Last week my wife and I had car trouble in front of Luby's Cafeteria on FM 1960. A young man and his wife parked in front of us and he immediately came over and offered his assistance. After several minutes the car was started due to his help.

His name was Jeff Richard and he said he had recently been employed by your company. He and his wife were looking for an apartment as they were moving from Port Arthur to The Woodlands area.

I know from my position in management that I appreciate hearing good things of our employees. You are fortunate to have an employee as caring and conscientious as Jeff.

Sincerely,

C.E. Satterfield

**Editor's note:** Jeffrey R. Richard is a helper in the T&D Line Department in The Woodlands.

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Employees who change residences or offices should fill out company mailing-address-change forms (GSU0012-00-81) and return them to the mailroom in the Edison Plaza. GSU publications, departmental mailings and other company information are not automatically forwarded; addresses must be corrected when employees move.



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## Accountants undergo technical training

When Janet Cook joined GSU at Willow Glen Station 2½ years ago, she was curious about how her work fit in with the rest of GSU operations.

Knowing there are employees like Cook, the GSU Accounting Services Department helps remedy the knowledge gap with its annual technical training session, reports Jon Trevelise, assistant controller.

As a result, 116 accountants from throughout GSU gathered in Beaumont in early October to obtain knowledge about the company's ratemaking process, current accounting issues and

personnel matters, as well as to exchange information about various aspects of their jobs. Cook, a staff accountant I, reports that the sessions are "very beneficial."

This year's was the third such session held under the direction of Bobby Willis, controller, and Joe Donnelly, executive vice president-finance. Trevelise and others on the accounting staff plan the sessions. For the first time, a brief meeting was held the day after the technical training session strictly for accountants based outside Beaumont. This session included presentations

by the accounting department heads indicating the challenges and opportunities available in corporate accounting.

The decision to hold the yearly informational meetings reflects a company commitment to properly train accountants. For instance, new accountants undergo a special orientation program entitled "An Introduction to Public Utility Accounting." Further, GSU has been accredited as a teaching facility of the Texas State Society of Certified Public Accountants. The latest technical training session earned CPA participants five hours of Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits.



*Bill Brooks accepts the Energy Innovation Award from Gov. Mark White.*

## Brooks receives appointment, award

A state appointment and an award for energy innovation are two of the ways William L. "Bill" Brooks Jr.'s work at GSU has been recognized.

The supervisor of community and institutional programs was recently appointed to the Texas Weatherization Policy Advisory Council by Gov. Mark White. The five-year company veteran also received the Energy Innovation Award for his project, the Summer Youth Employment Program.

Brooks is in the Marketing and Consumer Services Department in Beaumont.

## Stein, Wilkinson fill new posts

Herb Stein became the second of only two principal accountants at GSU with his Sept. 16 promotion, announces Jon Trevelise, assistant controller.

At the same time, Benny Wilkinson was named the company's first senior accountant. Both men are assigned to Accounting Research and Analysis, the technical research arm of Accounting Services.

Stein, a 15-year GSU veteran, most recently served as director-accounting research. Trevelise says he was appointed to the new position because "he represents the highest level of technical expertise in the area of research and analysis."

Stein chairs the company's Accounting Policy Review Committee and has served on the Edison Electric Institute's Accounting Principles Committee. The New Orleans, La., native is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Management Accountant. He joined GSU in 1969 after earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Southwestern Louisiana. Stein went on to earn a Master's of Business Administration degree from Lamar University in 1976. Over the years, he has held

various positions in the areas of accounting and finance. Stein and his wife, Becky, and their two sons live in Nederland.

Wilkinson, who joined GSU in 1978, holds a bachelor's degree from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas and will earn an MBA degree at Lamar University in December. According to Trevelise, his appointment came about because he is "a seasoned professional accountant who is a technical specialist in several accounting functional areas." His Gulf States' career has included positions in Budgeting and Control, Regulatory Reporting and Accounting Research and Analysis.

A native of Burkburnett, Texas, Wilkinson and his wife, Lori, make their home near Beaumont.



*Wilkinson (left), Stein*



## Girl's disease prompts United Way action

Because their young granddaughter suffers from a rare disease, Sonny and Ruth Hebert are staunch advocates of the United Way campaigns, reports *Plain Talks'* correspondent Barbara Broussard.

Now retired as a serviceman-1st class in Port Arthur, Hebert actively participated in two United Way campaigns before he retired. Three-year-old Sarah Ruth Haley is a victim of a disease which affects her bones, skin and vital organs.



*Sarah Ruth Haley*

During her early months of life, the child received United Way monies which were vital to her survival, according to her grandfather.

Hebert says he and his wife want to say thanks to GSUers who served as "co-workers with God in the gift of life to Sarah."



*T.C. Varnado (left), Calvin Tucker*

## Tucker retires

A Sept. 7 retirement supper marked Calvin Tucker's retirement from the Gas Department in Baton Rouge.

Tucker spent 33 years with GSU, after joining the company in September 1951.

## Santa Claus role hooks Robinson

A year ago, Frank Robinson took his first helicopter ride, hovering over an eager shopping center crowd, waving and belting out cheery "ho-ho-hos."

To many youngsters, Robinson is Santa Claus — and the GSU retiree relishes the role.

The former Huntsville district superintendent recalls, "I really started doing it (playing Santa) back in the 1940s. They didn't have a Santa for the parade in Cleveland, so I filled in and got hooked on it."

He now owns two suits because cleaning one suit sometimes interferes with his appearance schedule.

Through the years, Robinson has learned "not to force a child to talk to Santa." His secret, he says, is to "start bragging on their clothes and all and, before you know it, you've won them over."

Robinson and his wife, Louise, have three grown children and seven grandchildren ranging in age from 5 to 18, but most of his Santa Claus appearances are for churches, rest homes, banks and shopping centers.

Since he cannot know every family's financial situation, Robinson never promises a child anything, but vows "to look into it."

Youngsters' wish lists are usually fairly consistent with yearly fads, but last season Robinson was in for a big surprise. "A little girl asked me to bring her a horse ranch. I asked, 'You mean the kind you can set on a table?' but she said no, she wanted a real one!"

By the time he retired in 1981, Robinson's GSU career had

spanned 43 years. There is no slack time now, however. A moderator for the Christian Church, a licensed real estate agent and a humorist, Robinson travels frequently. He also ran for county judge on the Republican ticket in 1982 — a loss that did not diminish his political fervor. He is contemplating a second campaign.

During one of his out-of-town trips, a woman commented to him, "I thought you were retired." Robinson replied, "That's just the title" of the job.



*Andrea Penney reveals wishes to "Santa" Robinson.*





(Above) From left, Dave Stephenson, instrument and control technician-1st class; Dan Ross, control operating foreman, and Andy Kugler, start up engineer, testing the rod control system. (Below) From left, Wayne Leonard, start up engineer, and David Andrews, Stone and Webster electrical technician, monitoring the power output of a diesel generator.



# River Bend — progress continues as start-up moves ahead

by Mike Rodgers

A walk through the River Bend Nuclear Station reveals fewer people with hammers, drills and welding equipment and more people writing, filling out forms and conducting tests. Construction of buildings at the site of GSU's nuclear plant is complete and from the outside it looks much like it will look when the plant goes into operation. Most of the construction work remaining involves electrical wiring and piping.

"Everything is being geared toward start-up," says Randy Helmick, project engineer. In the start-up phase, plant systems and equipment are tested to make sure they function properly, "To load fuel, you must have around 95 percent of the plant systems checked out," says Jon Curless, project manager. "We have a large and highly qualified staff working at River Bend to do that," he adds. Fuel loading is set for spring 1985.

The plant is at a crucial point in its progress, with construction, start-up testing and permanent operations all taking place simultaneously. "A lot is happening in the same place at the same time,"

Photos by Mike Rodgers

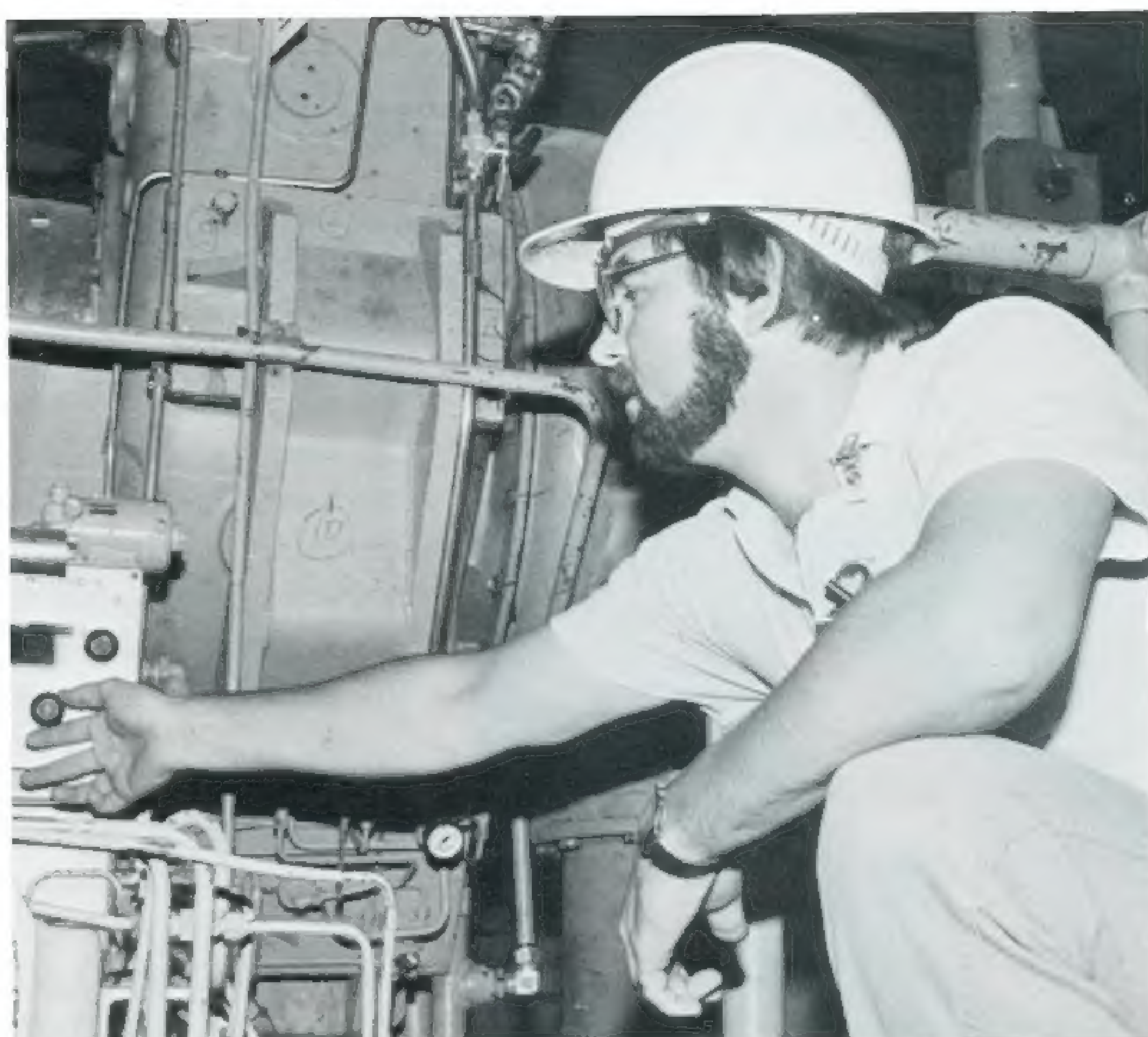
says Helmick, "and a lot of coordination is needed between those groups. The people working here are in high spirits and really want to get the job done right."

With a project the scope of River Bend, dozens of systems must be checked and re-checked. When the contractor, Stone and Webster, completes constructing a system, it is turned over to its own Preliminary Test Organization for check-out. Fred Finger, P.T.O. project manager, notes that everything must be tested, documented, reviewed and approved by certified personnel. "In 20 years, I've never seen a group more dedicated and working better together to achieve a common goal," he says. After testing by P.T.O., a finished system receives pre-operational tests by Gulf States personnel and then is turned over to plant staff. Testing information is so detailed that data from just one system — residual heat removal — filled two four-drawer file cabinets. "The pace of testing is increasing rapidly now," says Pete Freehill, superintendent-start up and testing, "and the more important the system, the more extensive the test."





*Studying the fire protection monitoring panel are, front row from left, Rodney Acoste, nuclear equipment operator; and Doug Talbot, turbine engineer. Back row from left, nuclear equipment operators, Dale Dawson, Tim Williams and Rusty Patterson.*



*Jimmy Driggers, start up technician-electrical, checks the setting on an emergency diesel generator governor*

Overseeing progress at the entire project is the job of William Cahill, senior vice president-River Bend Nuclear Group. Cahill says the plant is moving along well, especially when the delays experienced by other utilities building nuclear plants are taken into account. "We've held the same schedule three years in a row," he emphasizes, and credits the presence of high-level management personnel at the site for the excellent record. "Our management team, led by GSU Vice President Jim Deddens, has daily contact with whatever problems come up and can deal with them immediately."

Cahill stresses that safety is an ever-present concern at River Bend. The company is trying to build the project in a record-setting time of 68 months. "But we're not sacrificing quality for progress," he points out. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has given River Bend only a few citations for minor problems which were promptly corrected. Posters displayed prominently throughout the plant seem to sum up the attitude about quality work in only six words, "Do it right the first time."





# Holsomback spreads holiday spirit

by T.J. Reyes

When Juliette Holsomback "gets into the Christmas spirit," as she calls it, the energetic meter reader may sweep you up into the whirlwind of activity she



Mauriceville senior citizen Ben LeBouef shows his affection for Cha-Cha Holsomback at last year's banquet.

began eight years ago in the small east Texas town of Mauriceville.

Holsomback, better known as "Cha-Cha" to her co-workers in the Orange office, is the organizing force behind a Christmas banquet for Mauriceville's senior citizens, an idea stemming from her desire to "do something" for the elderly. That desire has grown into a full-scale holiday dinner for over 200 guests, plus a wrapped gift for each senior citizen in attendance.

Cha-Cha invites all of the town's residents, aged 55 or older, to the local school cafeteria on the first Friday of December, a day designated by the Orange County Commissioner's Court as "Mauriceville Senior Citizens' Day." But her preparations for the banquet — soliciting cash, gift items and other donations from area businesses and residents —

begin as early as October. She even recruits a few volunteers along the way. Since those volunteers always include husband Roger and son Roger II, the banquet has become a Holsomback Christmas tradition.

Tradition aside, a holiday dinner for that many people requires Cha-Cha to summon plenty of Christmas spirit. So, she has found ways to streamline some of the work. "As a time-saver, I've learned to color code the name tags on the presents so I can tell a man's gift from a woman's gift." She'll wrap over 200 presents before this year's banquet, scheduled for Dec. 7 in the new Mauriceville School cafeteria. She will also prepare a major portion of the cooking for the banquet, but says, "I don't mind the work involved. This is just the way I get into the Christmas spirit."

## Employees fill Christmas baskets

Story and photo by T.J. Reyes

Helping less fortunate people at Christmas time is easy for Nancy Thibodaux because she can still picture the children's smiling faces the time she helped deliver food collected by her fellow employees for a needy family in Orange.

The departmental clerk remembers the excitement over the boxes of food was topped only when the colorfully-wrapped gifts were brought out, an added surprise for the children of the family. "One small child looked up at me and asked 'Is one of those for me?'," Thibodaux recalls, remembering the hope in the child's voice.

For several years, she has spearheaded the office's Christmas food drive. Thibodaux knows

most employees will pass her centrally-located office sooner or later. "Seeing me reminds people if they haven't donated yet," she says.

The collection boxes scattered throughout the office and the service center will yield enough contributions to help several needy families. Names of recipients come from local human services groups or other employees.

In addition to the food collected, money from the employee coffee fund will fill out each food basket, and add a turkey or ham. Donations of cash and safety points are used to purchase additional food or presents when there are small children in the family. Last year, some families were given special gift certificates to use toward their electric bills.

Thibodaux, who has two young sons of her own, feels the annual

project is well worth the effort if only for the good feeling of helping others. "After giving those children their gifts, we left," she remembers. "They ran down the street behind us, yelling their thanks. I'll never forget their faces."



Nancy Thibodaux sorts contributions from the food drive.



# Celebrating Christmas

by Susan Gilley

Christmas is almost universally a holiday for children, and the traditions of two GSU families are no exception.

Even so, Liz Duhon of Lafayette and Michelle Pinkney of Beaumont say their families observe the holidays in distinctly personal ways.

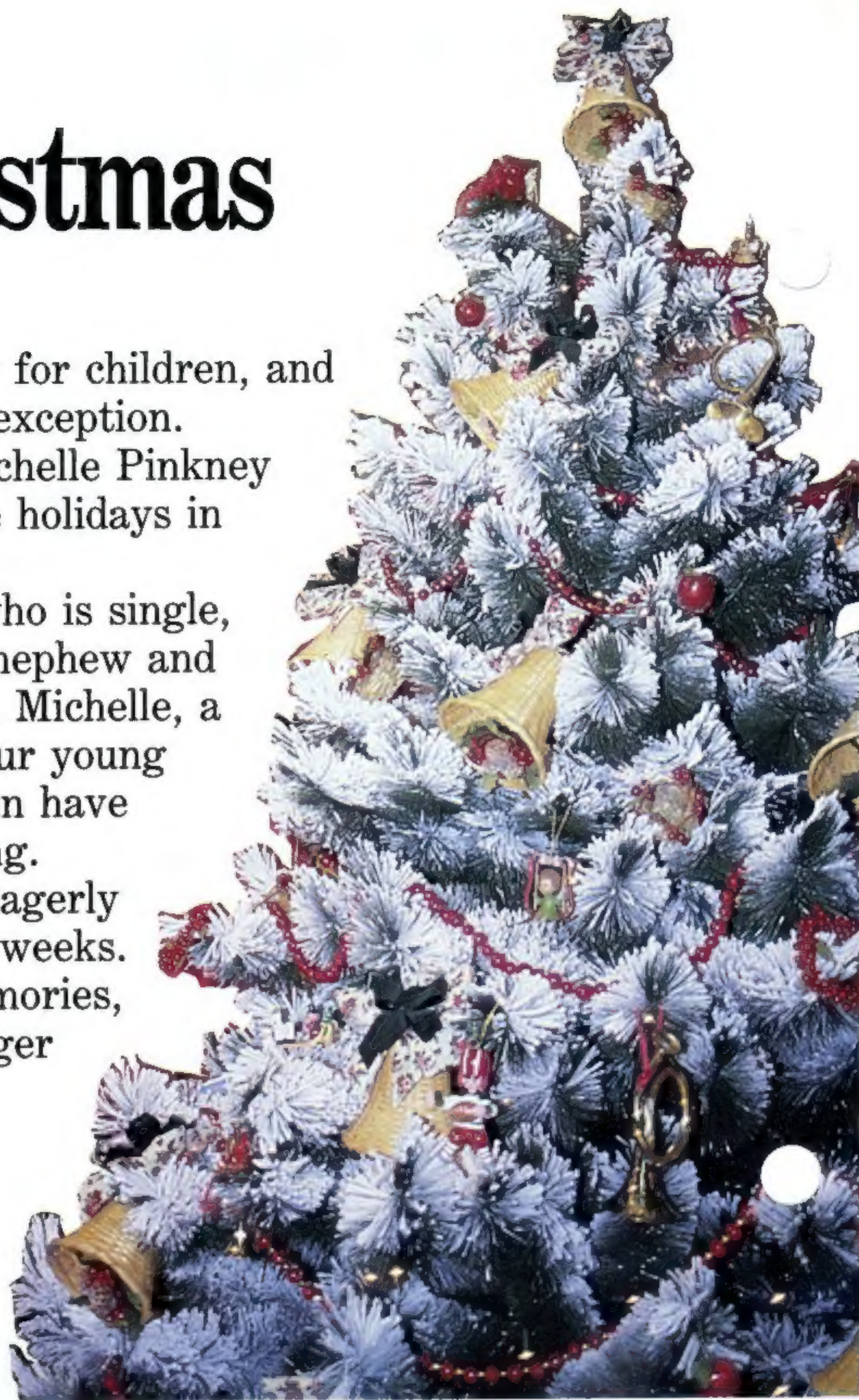
Liz, a consumer service representative who is single, joins her parents, brother, sisters, nieces, nephew and assorted in-laws for a seasonal celebration. Michelle, a graphic technician who is the mother of four young children, reports that she and husband John have devised their own special way of celebrating.

In both families the youngest members eagerly anticipate Santa's Christmas Eve visit for weeks.

And the adults, filled with childhood memories, add all the touches that will help the younger generation build their own traditions.

Both the Duhons and the Pinkneys consider the tree a must. Other facets of their observances blend contemporary trends and old-fashioned charm.

For more about these special family celebrations, turn the page.



Photos by Susan Gilley

*Jonee' (left), Nichelle Pinkney rip into gifts.*



*Above, the Duhon tree was decorated to a music theme by Liz.*

*From left, Libby LeBlanc, Jennifer Meaux, and Aimee' LeBlanc await Santa's visit.*





# Country-style

"We always have a big party."

Christmas is a two-day celebration for the Duhons of Abbeville, La.

Although Liz lives in nearby Lafayette, the celebration is always held in the camp owned by her parents, Amson and Laura Duhon.

"We always have a big party on Christmas Eve at my parents' camp," says Liz. Each party has a theme — one year it was a Cajun Christmas, with cracklings and boudin; another year it was a fiesta, with family members enjoying Mexican food. Non-relatives, including Liz's boyfriend, Keith Lopez, are often invited to the Christmas Eve festivities.

Liz always decorates the tree and the three Duhon sisters share cooking chores with their mother and their grandmother, Amy Baudoin. The big meal takes place on Christmas Day, with  
Photos by Susan Gilley

turkey and lobster dressing, broccoli dressing, coconut-sour cream cake and homemade divinity part of a typical menu.

The camp, built by her dad, a retired rice farmer, features a pot-bellied, wood-burning stove and a durable cement floor that allows Liz's mother to "shut the door and clean up the next day."

Hanging their stockings in the main room are 8-year-old Jason Meaux and 5-year-old Jennifer Meaux, children of Janice Duhon Meaux, and Libby Jeanne LeBlanc, who turns 3 on New Year's Day, and 5-month-old Aimee Claire LeBlanc, daughters of Libby and Cindy Duhon LeBlanc. The only Duhon son, Michael, and his wife, Sabrina, have no children.

"We're holiday people," insists Liz, "but Christmas is the most special family holiday."



Above, Jason Meaux enjoys a Christmas toy. Top, middle, Amson Duhon, Liz Duhon, Jennifer and Jason Meaux. To the right, Chefs Amy Baudoin, Liz and Laura Duhon show off their creations.





# City-style

"I couldn't wait to have children, because they're so much fun around the holidays."

Michelle Pinkney grew up in Louisiana as an only child — one who longed to share the Christmas spirit with other youngsters.

"I couldn't wait to have children of my own, because they're so much fun around the holidays," she recalls.

For Michelle and John, Christmas is "strictly for the kids, but New Year's is an adults-only holiday." That tradition evolved partly because Michelle's birthday falls on Jan. 1st. The couple always goes out to celebrate.

Since early October, the Pinkney's oldest daughter, 6-year-old Aishia, has been composing letters to Santa Claus from herself, her twin sisters and infant brother.

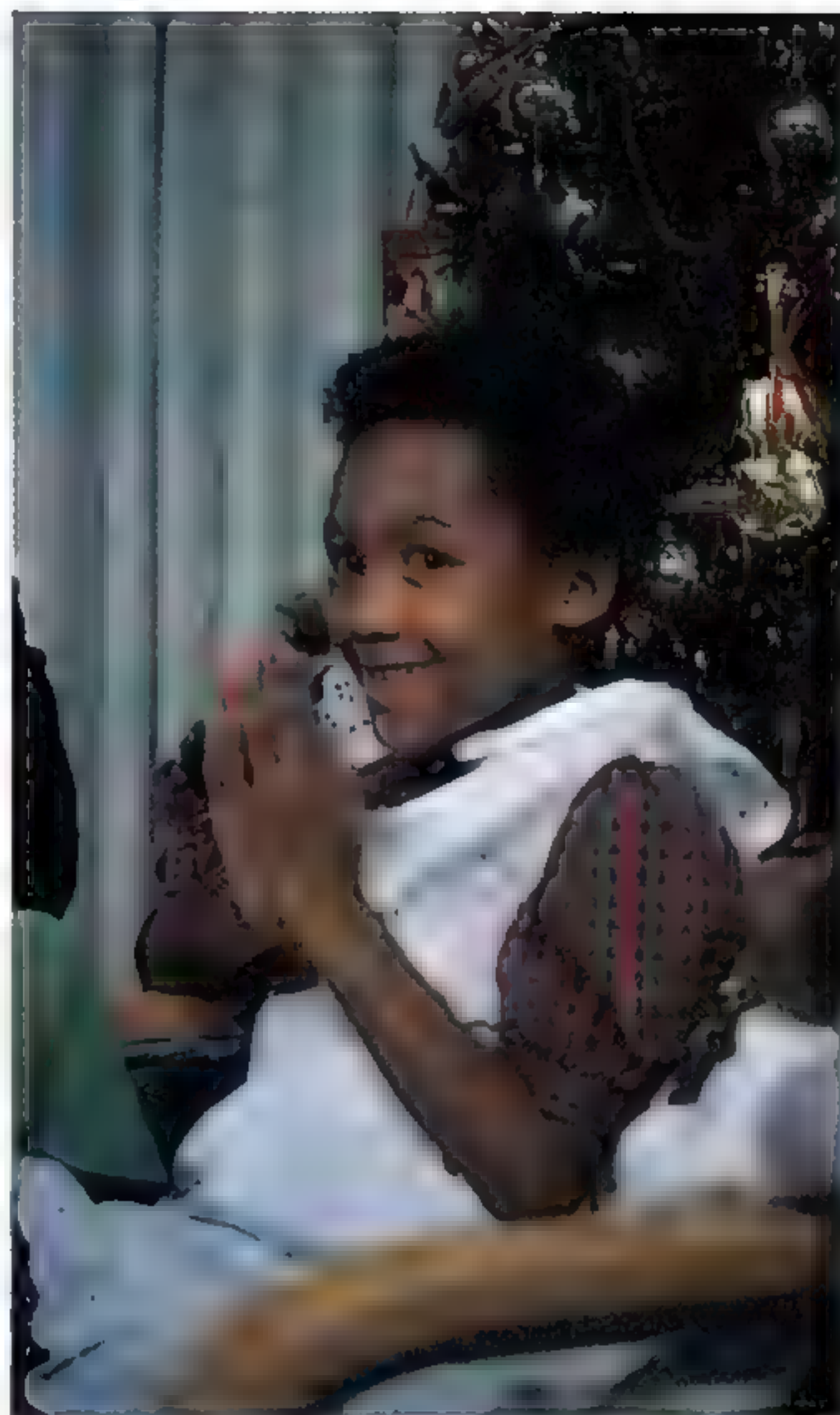
While she wants a teen fashion doll and related accessories for herself,

she's requested Cabbage Patch Kids® and a talking telephone for twins Jonee' and Nichelle, who will turn 2 this month.

The Pinkneys spend Christmas in one of four places — at their home, at the home of one of John's brothers, at Michelle's mother's home in Baton Rouge or at John's mother's home in Beaumont.

When the family is in Beaumont, part of the holiday ritual includes attending Midnight Mass at St. Pius Catholic Church.

Early Christmas morning, the youngsters open their presents, then Michelle and the other adults "clean up the mess," she says jokingly. The mid-day feast is always the same — turkey, ham, gumbo, cakes and pies.



*Aishia Pinkney says grace before the Christmas feast.*



*Michelle Pinkney cuddles baby son, J-II.*



# ON THE MOVE

## A

**Adams, John M.**, Conroe, to industrial representative, Division Marketing & Consumer Services.

## C

**Cronin, Carolyn M.**, formerly of Baton Rouge, to secretary, River Bend Nuclear Group, River Bend Station.

**Cryer, James E.**, formerly of River Bend Station, to materials distribution & disposal coordinator, Materials Management, Baton Rouge.

## D

**Davalath, Nataraj R.**, Beaumont, to systems analyst, Computer Applications.

**Davis, Gary P.**, River Bend Station, to area coordinator, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**Dietz, William R.**, Conroe, to utility foreman, Line Dept.

**Dykes, Ralph L.**, formerly of Beaumont, to staff accountant II, Plant Production, Sabine Station.

## F

**Finn, Leah K.**, Beaumont, to systems analyst, Computer Applications.

**Fish, Michael H.**, River Bend Station, to supervisor-start up scheduling, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**Fitzgerald, Joseph E.**, Beaumont, to senior mechanical engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group.

## H

**Hargrove, Thomas E.**, Beaumont, to senior utility pilot, System Operations.

**Harvey, Anita F.**, River Bend Station, to coordinator-document control, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**Hebert, Lloyd J.**, Beaumont, to supervisor-consumer affairs, System Marketing & Consumer Services.

**Hebert, Martin C.**, Baton Rouge, to utility foreman, Transmission Construction.

**Hebert, Robert E.**, River Bend Station, to senior purchasing agent, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**Hilborn, Bobby G.**, River Bend Station, to materials distribution & disposal representative, Materials Management.

## J

**Jackson, Ronald L.**, Beaumont, to pilot-mechanic, System Operations.

**Joffrion, Richard A.**, formerly of Port Arthur, to utility foreman, Engineering Services, Beaumont.

**Judice, John A.**, Baton Rouge, to coordinator-consumer credit, Division Accounting.

## K

**Killough, James K.**, Beaumont, to senior pilot, System Operations.

**Koci, Eugene W.**, formerly of Baton Rouge, to supervisor-system credit & collections, Accounting Services, Beaumont.

**Krudop, Gerald, L.**, Sabine Station, to control operations foreman, Plant Production.

## L

**Lorring, David N.**, Beaumont, to senior nuclear engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**Luther, William G.**, formerly of Beaumont, to district engineer, Lake Charles Division Operations, Lafayette.

## M

**McCormick, Douglas E.**, Beaumont, to supervisor-

consumer services, Division Marketing & Consumer Services.

**Miller, Ben E.**, Lake Charles, to assistant general substation supervisor, T&D Substation.

**Moore, James L.**, formerly of Conroe, to assistant line supervisor, Line Dept., Cleveland.

**Morris, Joanne G.**, Beaumont, to mechanical engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**Morrissey, James P.**, formerly of Beaumont, to mechanical maintenance supervisor, Willow Glen Station.

**Mullen, Buddy E.**, Port Allen, to utility foreman, T&D Line.

## O

**O'Neal, Marvin D.**, Baton Rouge, to utility foreman, T&D Substation.

## R

**Radebaugh, Stephen R.**, River Bend Station, to assistant superintendent-start up, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**Reeves, Clyde R.**, Beaumont, to civil engineer, Engineering.

**Rider, Ronald W.**, Beaumont, to pilot, System Operations.

**Roberts, Charles W.**, Willow Glen Station, to planning coordinator, Plant Production.

**Robinson, David L.**, Beaumont, to nuclear engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**Russell, Cecilia J.**, Beaumont, to benefits associate, Human Resources.

## S

**Sanders, Keith C.**, formerly of Sabine Station, to system operator, Power Supply, Beaumont.

**Sawa, Stephen F.**, River Bend Station, to start up & test controls supervisor, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**Shimek, Charles R.**, Beaumont, to director-standards, Engineering.



# Homemade Christmas joy

by Susan Gilley

Three little Louisiana girls will wake up Christmas morning to find doll sized wooden highchairs under their Christmas trees — miniature furniture designed and built by their grandfather, Randy LeJeune.

When LeJeune decided a few years ago that he wanted to start doing something more productive with his spare time, he gave up golf and took up furniture-making.

Not only has the result been rewarding for the Baton Rouge employee, but his family and friends have gained, too.

LeJeune reveals that he never sells his creations, choosing instead to give them away.

A consumer service representative-senior who lives in Galvez, LeJeune started out easy, but quickly progressed to more difficult projects. "My wife, Jeanette, does ceramics and painting. My first project was to

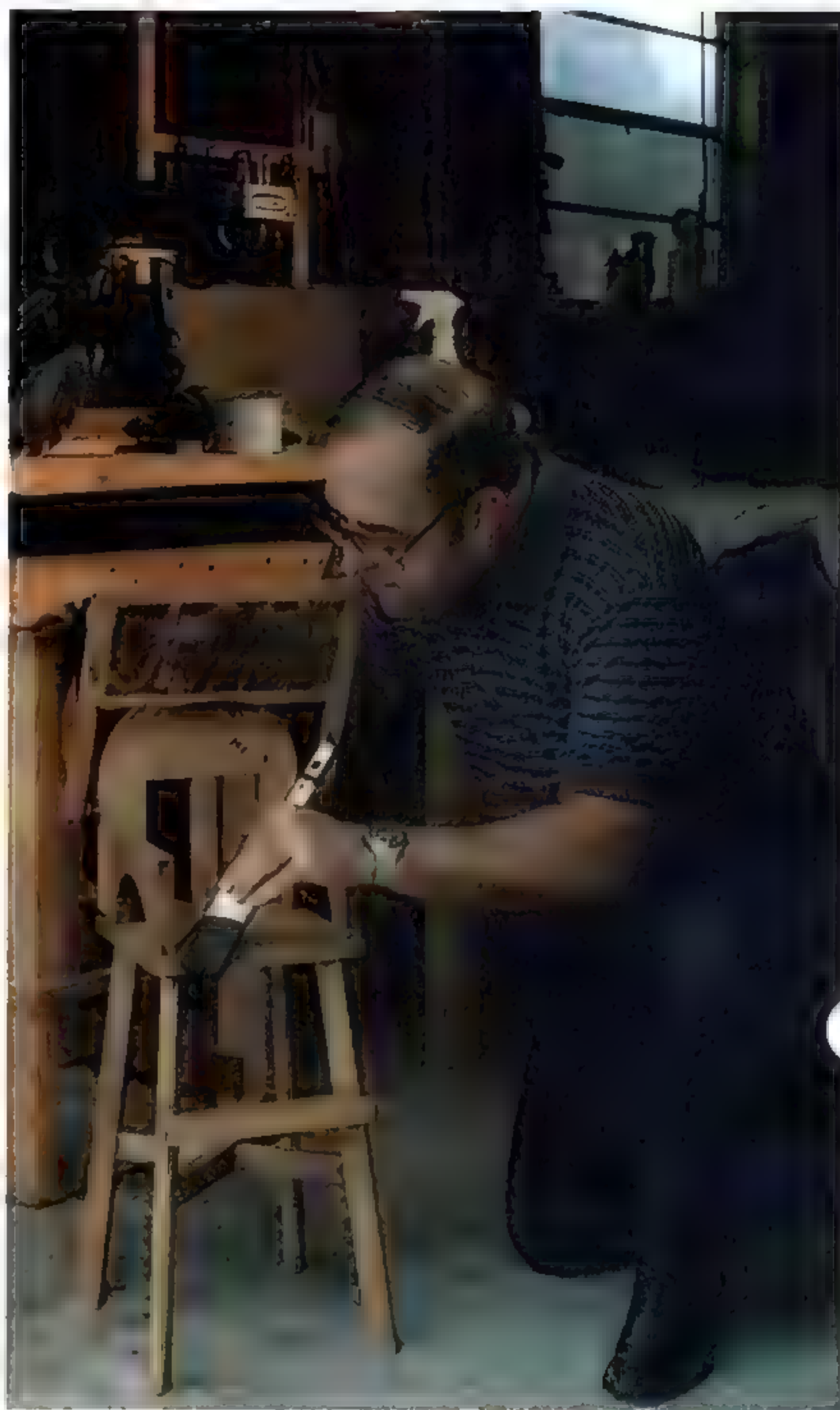
build frames for her paintings," he recalls.

Later, he would see things that appealed to him and purchase similar patterns. "I discovered it was easier to design my own patterns. Actually, I design as I go," he explains.

LeJeune favors the simple Shaker style over more ornate ones. While his house already boasts several pieces of hand-made furniture — small tables, a mirror and deacon's benches, for example — his goal is "to build a whole houseful of furniture."

That may sound like a tall order, but LeJeune insists that big furniture is a lot easier to build than the tiny doll furniture he constructs for his granddaughters.

Even so, LeJeune enjoys the appreciation exhibited by 3-year-old Stephanie, 2-year-old Emily and 5-month-old Karlie.



Randy LeJeune puts the finishing touches on one of three doll-sized highchairs.

**Skiles, Jerry L.**, Vidor, to utility foreman, T&D Line.

**Skipper, Karyn R.**, formerly of Lewis Creek Station, to staff accountant I, System Production, Beaumont.

**Stein, Herbert E.**, Beaumont, to principal accountant, Accounting Services.

**Strickland, Donald L.**, Willow Glen Station, to planning supervisor, Plant Production.

**T**

**Thibodeaux, Michael W.**, Nelson Coal, to planning coordinator, Plant Production.

**Trowbridge, Frank R.**, River Bend Station, to supervisor-reactor start up & test, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**W**

**Whitman, Norman M.**, River Bend Station, to supervisor-maintenance planning, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**Wielgus, Paul J.**, Beaumont, to senior fuel coordinator, Fuel Services.

**Wilkinson, Benny F.**, Beaumont, to senior accountant, Accounting Services.

**Wilson, David Y.**, River Bend Nuclear Group, to senior planning & scheduling specialist, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**Wire, David J.**, Beaumont, to fuel transportation coordinator, Fuel Services.

**Womack, Terry B.**, River Bend Station, to contract analyst, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**Woodrome, Nancy T.**, Beaumont, to investor relations representative, Corporate Services.





## GSUer's grand-daughter wins beauty title

Proud grandpa Alvin J. Phillips reports that his grand-daughter, 4-year-old Lauren Brook McKinney, is a recent beauty title winner.

The little girl was named Miss LaPetite during the 1984 Winnie Rice Festival. Her grandfather is a senior engineering assistant at the Beaumont Service Center.



*Charlie Boynton shows off baby son, Justin.*

## Boyntons, Gaspards announce baby's birth

The arrival of 8-pound Justin Boynton on Aug. 28 signaled

two firsts for a couple of GSU employees.

The youngster is the first child for Charlie and Angie Boynton and the first grandchild for Leonard and Gwen Gaspard. Both men are GSU employees, with Charlie an electrical engineer at the Beaumont Service Center and Leonard supervisor-Marketing & Consumer Services in Port Arthur. The new mother worked in the Real Estate Department before Justin's arrival, but is now a full-time mother and homemaker.



*Mid-County employees show off their cake.*

## Cake honors Mid-County employees

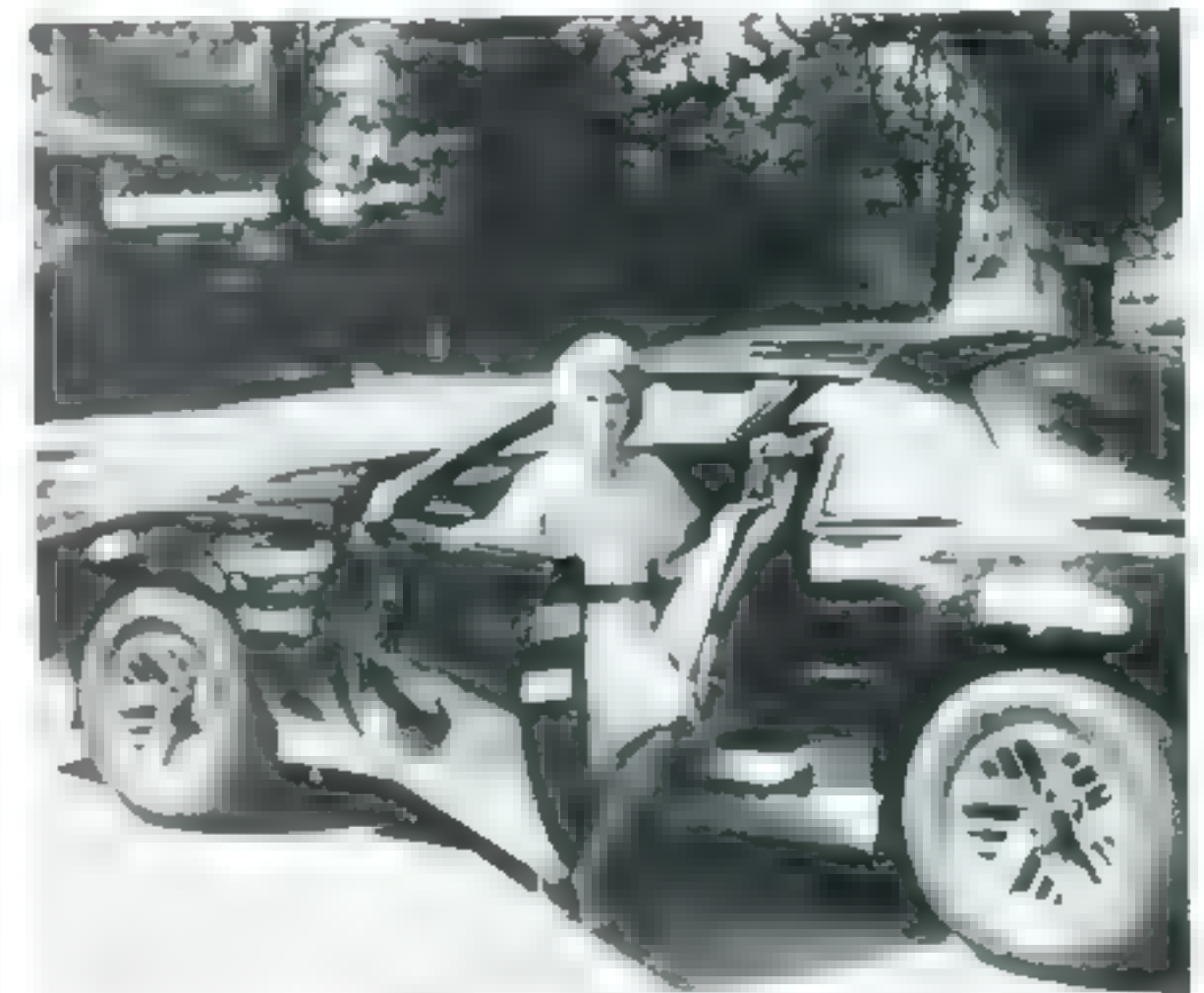
On VOE student Cheryl Mouton's last day in the Mid-County Gulf States' office, she brought a decorated cake to show her appreciation for her co-workers.

The cake, decorated with the GSU logo, was enscribed "Thanks to everyone."

## Employee's daughter wins on game show

Lots of people dream of winning prizes on television game shows, but few actually do.

One who did is Julie Fruge, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roland "Dean" Jarreau of Baton Rouge.



*Julie Fruge shows off the car she won.*

According to her dad, a utility foreman-substation, the young woman was a grand prize winner on the game show "The Price Is Right" when she vacationed in Hollywood, Calif., earlier this year. Her segment was aired Oct. 8, when viewers learned she had won a 1984 Trans Am sports car, a motorcycle, a brass day bed, a grandfather clock, a freezer and a trip for two over the Napa Valley in a hot-air balloon.



## Youngster marks 2nd birthday

Kevin James Fancher celebrated his 2nd birthday on Sept. 18.

The youngster's mom, Donna, is a senior stenographer at River Bend Station, and his dad, Jim, works for Stone & Webster at the River Bend construction project.





## Birthday prompts office observance

Co-workers of Viva B. Parkhurst, didn't forget the Orange employee's 64th birthday.

They observed the Aug. 29 birthday with a dozen red roses, a cake and some other gifts, reports Kitty Ann Prouse, *Plain Talks* correspondent.



Kay Kohn cuddles sons Jonathan (left) and Austin.

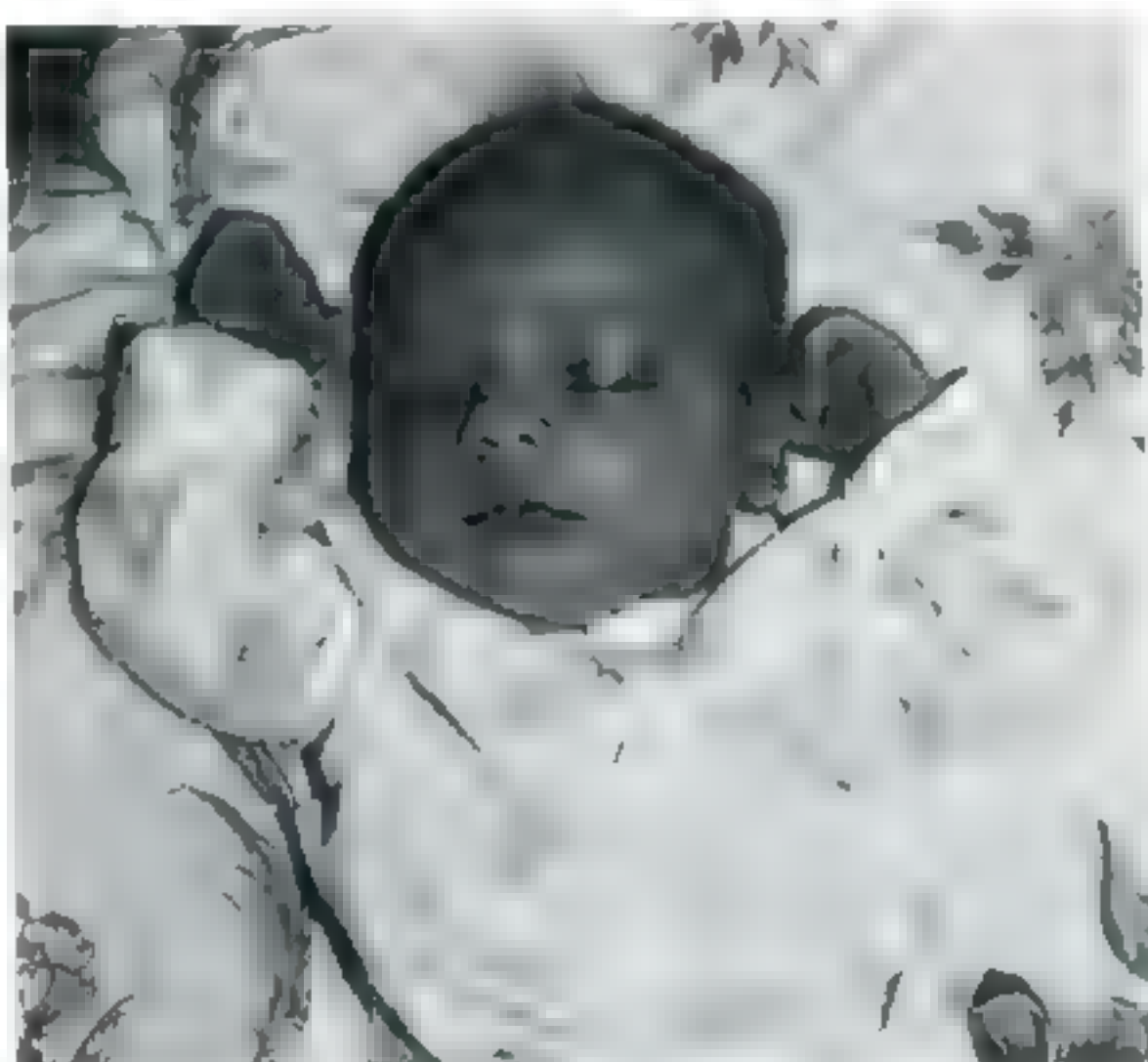
## Employees rally to Kohns' aid

Little Austin Michael Kohn spent the first two months of his life in hospitals, but he is home now with his parents and big brother.

Austin was born two months' premature on June 16 to the Michael and Kay Kohn family. His mom, a staff accountant II in Baton Rouge, reports that Baton Rouge Division employees held a

benefit luncheon to help defray some of the massive medical costs. The new arrival underwent specialized care at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor before returning to Woman's Hospital in Baton Rouge on July 14. He went home Aug. 11.

Little Austin's big brother, Jonathan, observed his 1st birthday on June 17, the day after Austin was born.



## Family expands for two GSUers

A two-generation GSU family welcomed a new little boy Sept. 10 with the birth of Korrey Patin.

The proud dad is Leonard Patin, lineman-3rd class, and the proud grandfather is Claude Patin, shop foreman/garage. Both men work in Lafayette.

## GSUers compete in pistol match

Three GSU employees placed in the Golden Triangle Small Bore Pistol Silhouette Competition in Beaumont this summer, and a fourth competed for the first time as unclassified.

Jommy Holder of Employee Benefits, Edison Plaza, won the AA production and placed 2nd in the unlimited class. He also holds the club record in big bore unlimited class.

Fred Kressman of Training at Sabine Station won the AAA production with a score of 35 and placed fourth in the unlimited



Three GSUers—(from left) Holder, Oliver and Kressman—visited on the shooting range.

class. Kressman holds the club record in .22-caliber pistol production.

Mike McQueen of Plant Production at Sabine Station placed second in the new shooter class.

John Oliver of Internal Audits, Edison Plaza, was a first-time participant at the competition.



From left, Paula Gillespie, Terri Corley and Dianne Calmes.

## Office honors brides-to-be

Three brides-to-be were honored by Essen Lane office employees in early October.

The three, all of whom are clerks in accounting, were presented gift certificates.

Later that month, Paula Barton married Roger Gillespie, a GSU engineer; Terri Strickland married Nathan Corley; and Dianne Cambre married Robert Calmes.





*Justin Michael Babino*

## Trio announces new babies

Three Beaumont employees took a lot of joshing earlier this year from co-workers about the water supply on Edison Plaza's 9th floor.

That's because the families of all three expanded within a matter of weeks this summer — and all three new parents sit within a few feet of each other at work!

The three newcomers, in order of appearance, are Justin Michael Babino, born June 21; Lindsey Kathryn Ludwig, born July 9; and Brandon William Eimer, born Aug. 13.



*Lindsey Kathryn Ludwig*

Proud parents Michael and Lillie Babino report that Justin weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces and measured 20½ inches at birth. Mrs. Babino is coordinator-recruiting.

Chuck and Janie Ludwig note that Lindsey outweighed both baby boys, weighing 8 pounds, 4 ounces and measured 19¾ inches. Her dad is recruiting representative.

According to Ron and Connie Eimer, their new family member weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces and measured 19¾ inches. The proud dad is coordinator-occupational health.

All three families live in Beaumont.



*Brandon William Eimer*

## Youngster plays on winning team

Avery Harris, the 12-year-old son of a Sabine Station employee, helped lead his baseball team to a succession of victories this summer.

The youngster, son of Wesley Harris Jr., master electrician, was the leading homerun hitter for the 1984 baseball season. He was named to the Port Arthur Optimist Southern All Star team, which went on to win the District 12 championship and the state championship. The team also played in the National Regional Tournament in St. Petersburg, Florida.



One highlight of his summer was hitting a homerun to bring in the winning run in the first game of the Little League state championship in Waco.

In addition to his dad, Avery's other fans are his mom, Lorrane, and his 10-year-old brother, Wesley Harris III.

## GSU couple announces birth

Lonnie and Mary Jane Leger have a new baby boy named Christopher Dale.

Both mom and dad work for Gulf States—Lonnie as foreman-building and grounds and Mary Jane as a confidential records clerk in Payroll.

Christopher was born July 1 in Beaumont, weighing 8 pounds, 1 ounce and measuring 24 inches.







## Joshua Blake joins Hargroves

Joshua Blake Hargrove joined the John and Leisa Hargrove family on April 9.

The proud dad is a communications engineer in Edison Plaza. Buna is home for the family of three.



## Grandpa takes safety seriously

Jackie Ann Gautreaux may be an infant, but she's all ready for a Green Hat safety inspection, thanks to her grandpa, Corbin "Bean" Gautreaux.

Her parents, Paul and Peggy Gautreaux, welcomed her on June 27, when she weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces. And, her grandfather observed, the little girl had blue eyes and dark brown hair.

## GSU kids, dads play T-ball

Two GSU kids were teammates this summer on a Huntsville T-ball team, the Sweeties, and their dads served as team coaches.

Playing the game were Sarah Jeffcote, daughter of Huntsville Superintendent Joel Jeffcote, and Jennifer Mayrant, daughter of Susan Mayrant, a Huntsville departmental clerk.

Jeffcote and Mayrant's husband, Gary, served as coaches.



*Sweeties' teammates Jennifer Mayrant (1st from left, front row) and Sarah Jeffcote (seated next to Jennifer) were coached by Jeffcote (top row, far left) and Gary Mayrant (top row, far right).*

## Drill readies fire brigade

The newly-reorganized fire brigade at Willow Glen completed its first dry run drill last August. According to member Greg Beckstrom, who took this group shot, the fire brigade has plenty of enthusiasm and plans more training in the future.



*Gabriel Villarreal poses with new brother, Michael (left), and baby sister, Moriah.*

## Family welcomes fraternal twins

Two new babies joined the Juan "John" and Cyndi Villarreal family on May 11.

The family has one other child, 4-year-old Gabriel, and the dad, a 10-year GSU veteran, is a test technician-1st class at Lewis Creek Station.

The newest Villarreals are Michael, who weighed 5 pounds, 11 ounces and measured 19 inches, and Moriah, who weighed 6 pounds, 2 ounces and measured 18 inches.



*Joe Donnelly and the Tax Services volleyball team: (from left) Karl Segura, Bob Dana, "Cup" Dana, Rose Levy, Myra Merriman, Carol Young, Doug Trick and Russ Simmons.*

## Group wins volleyball tourney

When the Accounting and Financial Services picnic was held July 21, the Tax Services group won the volleyball tournament. Most members of the winning team are shown here, but not pictured are Debbie Janis, Jerry Penick and Sherrie Penick.



*Robert Callaway:*

# Storekeeper meets challenges

Story and photo by T. J. Reyes

When GSU went on-line with the present materials management system in 1979, a specific stock location for each item in the Port Arthur storeroom was needed for the new system to work properly. That meant renovating the storeroom to establish easily accessible locations for over 1,600 items normally kept on hand.

Storekeeper Robert Callaway was instrumental in meeting that challenge. It was his responsibility to mark off the storeroom

into a series of aisles, bins and pallets, with each individually identified. Then, he did the same to the outside storage area, known as the "yard."

Callaway, a five-year veteran at GSU, believes the renovated storeroom, although it may appear complex, is really easy to learn and use. Even a newcomer can quickly pick up on how to locate any item in the storeroom, he claims. Prior to the renovation, material was stored wherever there was enough room to put it.

Meeting the challenges of his job is typical of Robert Callaway, according to his supervisor, Don Ramsey. "He knows the materials handled by the storeroom backwards and forwards." Ramsey adds that Callaway is responsible for the day-to-day accountability of over \$1 million worth of material.

Co-workers are quick to praise Callaway for his willingness to go the extra mile when it comes to obtaining material necessary for their work. Besides typical requests, the storeroom may provide material for large system jobs or fill requests from other GSU storerooms. Callaway must keep a balance between enough material on hand to keep work flowing and not tying up too much cash unnecessarily in idle inventory.

As for his time away from work, the Port Arthur employee enjoys hunting and fishing. A fishing trip with his dad to Lake Livingston last summer yielded a 78-pound catfish.

He and his wife, Paige, who is the office manager of a travel agency, live in Groves. The young couple met through a shared interest in dancing to country music. However, their recent purchase of a house has made them "sort of homebodies now," Callaway acknowledges with a grin.



*Robert Callaway, storekeeper*



# Government recognizes GSU purchasing program

by Susan Gilley

GSU was one of only two large businesses nationwide to be named a recipient of the General Services Administration's (GSA's) Award for Prime Contractor Who Has Best Supported the Minority Business Enterprise Program.

Ed Loggins, executive vice president-operations, accepted the award Oct. 9 in Washington, D.C., from Acting GSA Administrator Ray Kline.

A total of five such awards were given, with Virginia Electric Power Company the only other business recipient. Others recognized were two GSA employees and two minority contractors.

According to Roy Dauzat, director-purchasing, the award comes after three years of efforts by GSU to increase the amount of business done with small, disadvantaged firms. In 1981, Gulf States became the first utility to sign a sub-contracting plan with the GSA — a plan that has since been used as a model for other businesses.

"Purchasing places \$270 million in orders each year, and about half of that is with small businesses," estimates Dauzat. Admitting that it is a little harder to identify small, disadvantaged businesses, Dauzat says the company has developed a directory of area minority-owned businesses. The goods and services they offer range from personnel services to drill bits to

flooring and tiles to pest control. One such businessman who has done a great deal of work for GSU is Lawrence Sam, owner of Sam's Construction Company. The Beaumont company offers site preparation, backhoe, dozer and trenching services.

Jan Smith, small and small, disadvantaged business representative, explains that her job requires lots of record-keeping for the GSA. For instance, documentation must be provided for

any order totaling more than \$10,000 to show whether any minority vendors met the specifications.

• According to Dauzat, the GSA award merely confirmed what Materials Management employees already realized — the program is working.

Dauzat explains, "We report progress and the dollar amounts of business done. Each year we increase our goal and, each year, we surpass it."



*Lawrence Sam (center) discusses his company's work with GSUers John Newton (front) and Sherman Powell.*



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